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$40M, NOW $310M, DO I HEAR A $815M? AND SOLD! FOR $1.1B

AUDITOR GENERAL RELEASES AWAITED REPORT ON COST OF CANCELLED GAS PLANTS

PAGE 4

Hazed and refused

Western U snowboarding club that lost official status after 'hairy' winter trip trying to rehabilitate image PAGE 2

The great unveiling

Hockey Canada and Nike reveal the new Sochi Olympic jerseys to excitement, and some criticism PAGE 5

A li'l somethin' to snuggle with?

Report reveals who buys what gadgets in Canada; Alta. leads the list PAGE 6

NEWS WORTH SHARING.

Tarek Loubani, far left, sits in ankle chains during a July 17, 2003, deportation hearing in Tel Aviv District Court. He and the other men pictured here were part of the pro-Palestinian International Solidarity Movement deported from Israel by the court after being arrested by the Israeli army in the West Bank. DAVID SILVERMAN/GETTY IMAGES

Loubani's trip a personal decision: Western U.

Contradictory reports. University says it had no role in doctor's trip that led to time in Egyptian jail

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Western University officials say Tarek Loubani was in Egypt voluntarily — not as part of a school-sponsored co-operative program with a Gaza hospital, as sources close to him have been reporting.

In fact, Loubani, an associate professor at Western and an emergency-room doctor at University Hospital, requested leave from the school to volunteer at Gaza's al-Shifa hospital.

"As far as I'm aware, it's his individual effort," Dr. John Densdedt, chair of surgery at Western's medical school, told Metro. "I'm not aware of any planned organizational effort between Western and the hospital in Gaza."

The university's media relations director, Keith Marnoch, confirmed that in an email.

"The words collaboration and programming have been used, debatably, out of context, during this episode," Marnoch said. "The collaboration — as some have called it — or initiative, is essentially the university's willingness to accommodate doctors who wish to participate in this type of voluntary, independent professional outreach."

It's not the first time Loubani has found himself behind bars in the Middle East.

He was arrested by Israeli police about a decade ago. He wrote a note detailing horrific conditions that made its way out of the prison, much as he did weeks ago while in the Egyptian jail.

Context

Tarek Loubani and professor John Greyson were jailed after a run-in with Cairo police on Aug. 16. Both were set free over the weekend but they remain in the country as details of their return to Canada are worked on.

NEWS 1

Super 8 Beef Burgers

Local health unit facing another case of E. coli

The Middlesex-London Health Unit is dealing with a new case of E. coli linked to Compliments brand Super 8 Beef Burgers.

Officials say the new case brings the total to four and has them concerned that the recalled product may still be in people's freezers.

The burgers — distributed in Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Ontario — were recalled last week after reports of illness surfaced. METRO

Accident

Cyclist in hospital after being hit by vehicle

A cyclist was in the intensive-care unit at Victoria Hospital on Tuesday after being hit by a vehicle on Commissioners Road, police said.

The crash happened about 4:55 p.m. Investigators remained on the scene into the late evening with small pieces of shattered glass and broken plastic lining a section of Commissioners just east of High Street.

The vehicle involved was travelling west, and the driver wasn't injured, police said. It's unknown which direction the cyclist was travelling.

Police said the victim is an adult man. His injuries are not believed to be life-threatening.

Witnesses are asked to contact the London Police Service's traffic management unit at 519-661-5680. METRO

A scene from the Western Snowboarding Federation's trip to Tremblant that's at the centre of allegations against members of the group. COURTESY FACEBOOK

Suspected pubic-hair drink not sitting well with Western

Fallout. Student snowboarding club trying to make a comeback after ill-fated winter trip

MIKE DONACHIE
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A zero-tolerance attitude to "hazing" has led to a tough year for one group at Western University.

The Western Snowboarding Federation is trying to rehabilitate itself after an incident during a winter trip.

Here's the allegation: Somebody, during a January trip for more than 200 students to Tremblant, Que., drank a cocktail of alcohol and body hair while others cheered them on.

Apparently, a video of the episode was posted online, but has since been taken down. According to a headline in the Western Gazette student newspaper, it was pubic hair.

The Clubs Governance Committee, set up by the University Students' Council and made up of students, had a hearing and ruled that the incident was hazing — and the USC's zero-tolerance policy kicked in. So, the snowboarding federation was kicked off the USC's official clubs list. The term they use is "deratified."

"I don't know much of the details of this incident," said the USC's Adam Smith, "but it was found to be a violation of clubs policy."

There are plenty of enthusiastic Facebook posts that show the Tremblant weekend was not a dry one, but nobody from the WSF was willing to talk about what happened, despite a series of approaches from Metro over two days.

Former federation president Sasha Barkans posted Monday on the organization's Facebook group that the club had been "battling with the USC for 10 months."

He pointed out the federation was the first club subjected to the Clubs Governance Committee system and called it "this unseasoned bureaucratic practice."

The club denies the incident was hazing, according to the Gazette.

Cold shoulder

Effects of the USC de-ratifying the Western Snowboarding Federation:

- Accounts frozen and more than $7,000 lost. Despite it being collected from federation members, it was added to funds to support other clubs.
- All USC support was withdrawn, including help with accounts and being able to use the USC's insurance. The club also can't meet in the USC building.
- The WSF can apply to be re-ratified in January, after a year of being frozen out.

Students out to reclaim school garden with a little help

Students and project leaders get ready for the first tree to be planted Tuesday. MIKE DONACHIE/METRO

The kids at one London school have taken a step towards transforming their own playground.

With support from Western University and Fanshawe College experts, students at Bless Sacrament Catholic Elementary School are making big changes.

The front of their school, right on Oxford Street East, is being reclaimed from traffic thanks to green improvements.

Western University geography doctorate student Janet Loebach, of the university's Human Environments Analysis Lab, has been leading the team that helped the kids evaluate the site, canvass ideas from students and staff, then draw up designs.

"Their whole front section, the asphalt section and smaller garden, has been off-limits for children for the last four or five years because they've had a number of issues related to traffic," said Loebach. "They weren't comfortable letting the kids play there so they were relegated to the side and back of the school."

A $25,000 grant from the London Community Foundation's Clean Air Challenge kicked things off. There have been other donations since, including $2,000 from Sifton Properties and materials from TRY Recycling.

Eli Paddle, another student from the Western lab who also teaches at Fanshawe, has brought his landscape design expertise to the team.

A groundbreaking ceremony Tuesday saw the first trees go in.

The work will continue all week and in the spring, creating an outdoor classroom, social space, areas to study plant life, even a "rain garden" that catches water and will have plants that thrive in wet areas.

MIKE DONACHIE/METRO

Councillor expenses may go online soon

Coun. Joe Swan, who led an effort to see council expense reports placed online, talks about the initiative Tuesday at city hall. MIKE DONACHIE/METRO

Unanimous support. Council committee all agreed that disclosure should be simple, easy

MIKE DONACHIE
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Nobody's objecting to councillor expenses being just a couple clicks away.

In fact, with everybody applauding the idea of transparency and accountability, there was unanimous agreement at a council committee Tuesday for the idea of publishing those details online.

Coun. Joe Swan was the man prepared to stick his neck out and suggest the city's new website include quarterly reports of the spending, which amounts to $15,000 a year.

The issue will be discussed by the full council on Oct. 22, but the committee has recommended that staff work out how to enact online disclosure.

"As a basic principle," said Swan, "it's not my money. It's the taxpayers' money. I should disclose to them how it's being used."

Councillor expenses are already a matter of public record. Asked Tuesday if anyone on council had expressed concerns about making them more readily available, Swan replied with a firm "no."

Stewardship

"As a basic principle, it's not my money. It's the taxpayers' money. I should disclose to them how it's being used."
Coun. Joe Swan

"I believe the will of the public is very strong about accountability and transparency," he said.

"I think it would be very foolish for any council member to go against that will."

Dial-in debate

Video calls also placed on agenda

Want to talk to city council? Soon you could do it via Skype.

A city committee agreed Tuesday to ask staff to look into ways of making Skype presentations possible at city hall. The full council will have their say at a meeting later this month.

Currently, the public can only join debates in person, but Coun. Joe Swan, replying to a citizen's request, asked the corporate services committee to consider allowing people to "dial in" via video calls.

Minimum wage. Per cent of Ontarians earning $10.25 an hour has doubled: Study

The share of Ontario workers toiling for minimum wage has more than doubled from 4.3 per cent to nine per cent since 2003, according to new research released Tuesday.

And those $10.25-per-hour workers are more likely to be women, visible minorities and immigrants, says the study by the Wellesley Institute.

The research, based on Statistics Canada data from 2003 to 2011, shows that young workers are more likely to be earning minimum wage. But almost 40 per cent, or 183,000 of them, are 25 or older, the study shows.

Another one million workers, most of whom are 25 or older, earn slightly above minimum wage at between $10.25 and $14.25.

"This study shows that it is not just students who are working for minimum wage," said study author Sheila Block.

"It shows that more than half of workers who would benefit from a $4 increase in the minimum wage are over 25."

Since greater shares of recent immigrants, visible minorities and women work for minimum wage in Ontario, an increase would also help close those wage gaps, she said.

"In a time when governments feel their budgets are constrained, minimum-wage policy is something that can address income inequality," Block said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Rock-bottom earners

9%

The percentage of Ontario workers earning minimum wage, up from 4.3 per cent in 2003.

Health care set by ballot? Fluoridation vote a flop at city council committee

Coun. Stephen Orser's move to have a public vote on water fluoridation added to the 2014 ballot was headed for the drain Tuesday.

He gave the corporate services committee a passionate speech about what he sees as health risks linked to fluoride in the drinking water.

But all five members of the committee supported a motion recommending that council refuses the request.

Orser still hopes to change minds and have the issue approved for the ballot by the full council on Oct. 22.

"I just don't think my kids' health should be put up to the public vote," Coun. Joe Swan said Tuesday.

"I have to rely on the medical professionals to give me guidance as to what is good health care."

MIKE DONACHIE/METRO

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* To get your season tickets now call 519-433-0634 Mon-Fri 8am-4pm. Single game tickets go on sale Thurs. Oct. 17th *

Scandal. Cost for Liberals' power-plant cancellations may be up to $1.1B: Report

It will ultimately cost Ontario taxpayers up to $1.1 billion to scrap two gas plants in Oakville and Mississauga so the Liberals could save five seats in the 2011 election.

That's the bottom line from auditor general Bonnie Lysyk in a long-awaited report Tuesday on the price tag for scuttling the Oakville generating station three years ago.

Lysyk concluded the tab for cancelling Oakville and relocating the plant to Napanee could skyrocket to $815 million — that's much more than the $310 million the Ontario Power Authority had estimated and astronomically higher than the $40 million the Grits initially claimed.

The Oakville plant was to be built by TransCanada Energy, which is being compensated for a number of factors, including the extra expense of shipping natural gas to the new eastern Ontario location — 240 kilometres away.

The report paints a picture of bungling from start to finish. The Ontario Power Authority approved a proposal to build the plant in Oakville despite opposition from the local council and residents. Former premier Dalton McGuinty's office assured TransCanada it would be fully reimbursed, ignoring "protections in that contract that could have minimized the damages," the report says.

Compounding things, then energy minister and London West MPP Chris Bentley ordered TransCanada to build the new plant in Napanee "even though it would cost significantly more to transport natural gas there, and more to transmit electricity back to the southwest GTA, where the need for power exists."

Lysyk's report is the second audit sparked by the controversial shuttering of the electricity power-plants.

A probe of the Mississauga closure earlier this year concluded it would cost $275 million for that move, which was announced less than two weeks before the Oct. 6, 2011, election. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

The impact

- Outcry over the cancelled gas plants triggered Dalton McGuinty's resignation on Oct. 15, 2012, and, later, Chris Bentley's as energy minister and London West MPP.
- But, McGuinty has always maintained that he did the right thing because residents in both communities opposed the power plants.

Auditor general Bonnie Lysyk THE CANADIAN PRESS

Door-to-door sales

Police warn of pushy woman selling brooms

There may be some sketchy broom business making its way to homes in the city.

Police say a woman in her 40s is going door to door, trying to sell brooms to people for $20. A dollar of each sale is said to be going toward breast-cancer research.

Police have not been able to verify that the claim is legitimate and are reminding people to not give in to high-pressure sales tactics and to do some research before making a purchase.

Anyone who's been approached by the woman is asked to call police at 519-661-5670 or Crime Stoppers at 800-222-8477. **METRO**

Firefighters spent several hours on Western University's campus Tuesday after a fire broke out at the tennis centre. SCOTT TAYLOR/METRO

Fire serves up scare at Western

Tennis centre. A small blaze broke out late Tuesday morning as students hit the ball around, before being told to leave

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The Western University Tennis Centre was evacuated around 11 a.m. Tuesday after a small fire broke out in the domed structure's clubhouse.

No injuries were reported, but the blaze left smoke billowing out of the roof and door for hours.

A woman who was playing tennis at the time said she believes the fire started as a result of maintenance work. A worker who was inside said he wasn't allowed to comment, but nodded when asked if that was the cause.

"We were playing doubles and we realized there was something white — it looked like dust — over by the window next to the clubhouse," said Thea Boyd. "Then another guy said there was a fire, and he left, but we carried on to play another game."

Boyd and her partners only left when a police officer suggested they do so.

Most of the smoke, she said, was between the two pressurized doors and near the clubhouse.

Western student Jake Hasegawa said he was hitting a ball when he saw someone trying to put the fire out.

"I was telling my friends we had to go and the next second there were firefighters everywhere," he said.

The official cause, damage estimate and details about when the facility will reopen have not been released.

Quoted

"I got out the front door and I could hardly even breathe."

Jake Hasegawa, a Western University student who was at the campus tennis centre when a fire started Tuesday.

Advocates fear privatization of medical clinics

The governing Liberals are allowing private medical clinics to flourish in Ontario at the expense of patients and community hospitals, public health advocates charged Tuesday.

Natalie Mehra of the Ontario Health Coalition said the government is planning to bring in new regulations to usher in private specialty clinics and shut down some services in hospitals.

"So the bottom line for us is this: The government's proposal to bring in private clinics and cut community hospital services, we fear is a giant step towards privatization,'' she said.

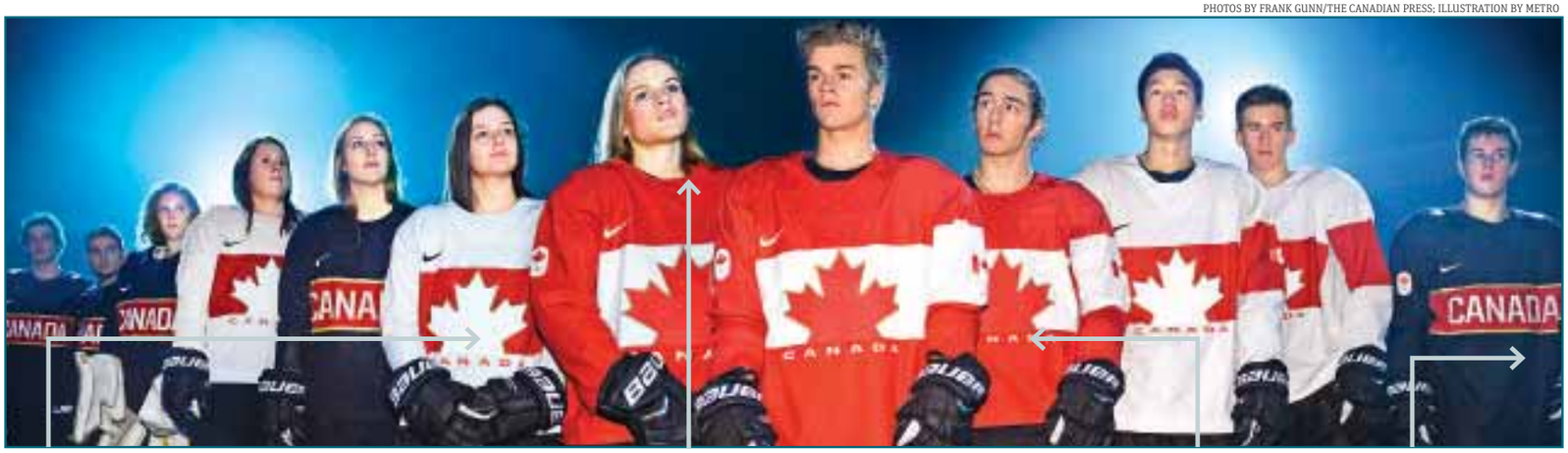
Patients would have to go from clinic to clinic for services, having a "profound effect" on health care, she said.

Health Minister Deb Matthews said moving procedures out of hospital where they can be done safely will actually be more convenient for patients and may reduce health-care costs.

"We want hospitals to be places where people go for acute care,'' Matthews said. "If they don't need to go to the hospital, if a procedure can be done outside of a hospital, that's good for patients and it's good for the system.'' **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Sochi style: Can Team Canada pull it off?

PHOTOS BY FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS; ILLUSTRATION BY METRO



Looking ahead

On the road to Sochi Olympics

More than a month after the first leak, Hockey Canada and Nike officially unveiled our hockey jerseys for the 2014 Winter Olympics. Amid club music and laser lights, youth players skated onto the ice at Maple Leaf Gardens sporting the red, white and alternate black uniforms that the men's, women's and sledge-hockey teams will wear at the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The event was another marker on the road to Sochi.

THE CANADIAN PRESS AND TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The big to-do

"Their mouths dropped, a little awestruck. They didn't realize what they were here for. When they saw the jersey for the first time, it hit them like it hits any NHL guy that's going to don that jersey."

Hockey Hall of Famer and former Canadian Olympian Joe Nieuwendyk, about the teenage players from the Toronto area who were invited to model the jerseys.

Petro Canada ad?

Critics say the red and white jerseys with a stem-less maple leaf resemble Petro Canada's logo.

- But Nike's Olympic creative director Ken Black said the main inspirations for the design were Canada's 1920 and 1972 Olympic hockey jerseys.

Red, white and black

3

Canada will be the only team in Sochi with a third jersey. "The fans like black, there's no question, and so do the players. But our real colours are red and white," Hockey Canada president and CEO Bob Nicholson said.

Sen. Duffy in hot water again with new allegations

Fresh findings. Auditor flags series of payments to Mike Duffy's friend Gerald Donahue, a former TV technician

An RCMP allegation that Sen. Mike Duffy awarded $65,000 in Senate contracts to a friend who did little actual work is the latest twist in the case of the troubled former Conservative.

The Mounties filed a production order in an Ottawa court on Tuesday to gain access to bank-account records related to the allegation. They are looking at new allegations of fraud and breach of trust against Duffy, based on fresh findings.

"That investigation determined that Sen. Duffy hired a friend as a consultant over an approximate four-year period and paid him a total of approximately $65,000 during that time, for little or no apparent work," wrote Cpl. Greg Horton, the lead investigator.

Sen. Mike Duffy THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Duffy said in an email that it would be "inappropriate for me to comment while these matters are being examined by the RCMP." No charges have been laid against Duffy.

An auditor flagged a series of payments to Duffy's friend Gerald Donahue, a former TV technician.

Between 2009 and 2012, Duffy asked the Senate to pay Donahue for a range of writing services including speeches, advice on web page design and development and general media consulting.

But Donahue told police that he didn't do any writing and never produced any tangible document, report or work product and never worked on the website.

"The work he performed for Duffy was limited to research and verbal advice," says the police report of an interview, adding that it was Duffy who devised a $200-an-hour "inflated" payment.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Chris Hadfield. Retired astronaut turns prof at University of Waterloo

The former Canadian astronaut who gained a global audience with his musical performances in space will be taking on a new job as professor of aviation at an Ontario university.

The University of Waterloo says Chris Hadfield's first task on campus will be assisting research into why some astronauts get fainting spells when they return to Earth — knowledge it says will also be useful for elderly people prone to falling.

The school on Tuesday announced the appointment of the ex-astronaut, who retired in July shortly after getting back from five months on the International Space Station.

During the mission, Hadfield became the first Canadian commander of the space station and performed more than 130 science experiments. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Chris Hadfield gestures shortly after landing in Dzhezkazgan, Kazakhstan, last May. He will be taking on a new job as professor of aviation at the University of Waterloo. MIKHAIL METZEL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Endangered liaisons

Spy allegations put Canada-Brazil military ties at risk: Experts

A carefully cultivated military relationship with Brazil could be damaged by the unfolding spy drama involving Canada's super-secret eavesdropping agency, defence and diplomacy experts say.

Since late spring, a platoon of Canadian soldiers has been embedded with a Brazilian army unit as part of the United Nations peacekeeping mission in Haiti.

The deployment, slated to run until Christmas, has been considered an important bridge-building effort with South America's biggest military power.

Walter Dorn, a professor at the Canadian Forces Staff College in Toronto, says the scandal will give Brazil second thoughts about Canada as a reliable partner.

Jean Daudelin, an associate professor at Carleton University's Norman Paterson School of International Affairs, says it has created an air of mistrust.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Alberta is iPhone country, according to a new survey. So naturally this woman is using an iPhone as she snaps events at last July's Calgary Stampede. JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Yak, yak, yak: That's diversity

Talk, talk, talk!

Canadians are taking calls on everything from iPhones to Androids, report says

We're a diverse country. Just check our smartphones.

Alberta is iPhone country.

Toronto consumers and anglophones living in Montreal are the most faithful to BlackBerry.

Vancouverites are most into Google Android phones.

That's the message in a new report by the Media Technology Monitor, which investigates how consumers are embracing technology.

"It isn't surprising to see that in a country as diverse as Canada you're going to see diversity not just between anglophones and francophones but also the regions as well," said MTM executive Andrea Sharkey.

Albertans are buying smartphones and tablets more than any other consumers in Canada, the report says.

By the numbers

68%

Only 68 per cent of francophones in Quebec City own a cellphone, according to a study by the Media Technology Monitor.

But francophones living in Quebec City are least likely to have one of the devices, according to the report.

The figures are based on surveys with more than 12,000 Canadians conducted last fall and this spring.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Super idea. Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No, it's a Superman licence plate

Superman's got wheels. Ohio fans of the Man of Steel now officially can have the Superman logo on their vehicles.

A licence plate with the iconic "S" insignia and the phrase "Truth, Justice and the American Way" is on sale.

Relatives of Superman creators Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster were at the plate's unveiling outside the Cleveland-area home where Siegel lived.

A letter by Siegel's daughter said the men who created the comic superhero as teenagers in the 1930s would have been "absolutely thrilled."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"I can just imagine them driving around ... and pointing out the plates as they spotted them."

Laura Siegel Larson, Jerry Siegel's daughter, imagining the excited reaction of the Superman creators.

Licence to thrill: The new Superman plate. GUS CHAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tweet this. Confused Twitter fans give Tweeter a boost on stock market

Tweeter is not Twitter. And its stock symbol has changed to avoid confusion.

The bankrupt electronics retailer's stock resumed trading Tuesday under "THEGQ." Its old symbol was "TWTRQ."

That was apparently too similar to "TWTR," the symbol proposed by Twitter when the messaging service filed plans for its highly anticipated initial public offering.

A vacant Tweeter store in New Hampshire. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Some confused investors sent Tweeter's stock up as much as 1,400 per cent on Friday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Europe cracks down

No butts about it: Smoking a no-no

European lawmakers approved sweeping new regulations governing the multibillion-dollar tobacco market on Tuesday.

The new rules include bigger warnings on cigarette packs and a ban on menthol and other flavourings in a bid to further curb smoking.

They stopped short, however, of tough limits on electronic cigarettes.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chips recalled

Pringles crying over missed milk

Pringles brand salt-and-vinegar potato chips are being recalled because they contain milk that isn't declared on the label.

The chips were sold across Canada in 168-gram packages (UPC code 0 64100 85246 4). There have been no reported illnesses linked to the product. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Condos give a boost

Housing starts up in September

The pace of housing starts picked up in September, boosted by a jump in condos, townhouses and apartments, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. said Tuesday.

It said starts came in at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 193,637 last month, ahead of what economists had expected and up from 183,964 in August.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 96.45 US (-0.51¢)

TSX 12,692.41 (-95.84)

OIL $103.49 US (+46¢)

GOLD $1,324.60 US (-50¢)

Natural gas: $3.72 US (+9¢)
Dow Jones: 14,776.53 (-159.71)

JOB AND BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES FAIR

Borea Construction, ULC and NextEra Energy Canada, ULC are pleased to invite you to join us and learn about the job and business opportunities available for the proposed Adelaide, Bluewater, Bornish, Goshen, Durham, Jericho Wind Energy Centres proposed in South Western Ontario.

Wednesday, October 16th
2 PM until 8 PM

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BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES
Cleaning Services | Equipment Suppliers | Accommodations | Road Maintenance | Food/Service Caterers | Training Services | Gas/Diesel Providers | Snow removal services

INFORMATION PROVIDED AT THE FAIR
• About Borea Construction, ULC and Next Era Energy Canada, ULC
• Qualifications and/or requirements for employment
• Qualifications and/or requirements to be a qualified subcontractor/supplier for Borea Construction and NextEra Energy, ULC

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THE FUTURE IS HERE, BUT NO ONE CARES

JUST SAYIN'

Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

If you were ever a kid, you'll remember dreaming about having your very own two-way wrist communicator.

Jimmy Olsen had one to stay in touch with Superman. All he had to do was press the button, and a cool zee-zee-zee sound would summon the Man of Steel.

In fact, anyone who was anyone in the fantasy universe had one, from Dick Tracy to Captain Kirk to Knight Rider to the Power Rangers.

Now you can have one, thanks to Samsung, which has just released the Galaxy Gear. This device gives your wrist a very high-tech panache and allows you to link up to your Galaxy phone via Bluetooth and talk at your wrist.

Too bad the fantasy is still better than the reality.

Because the Gear has no brain, i.e. SIM card, of its own, it's pretty much a local version of the phone in your pocket. And only if that phone is a Galaxy Note 3. You'll have to wait for the next version to hook up to more phones and functionality. But if you want to be the first Inspector Gadget on your block and you have $300 to spend on a half-baked idea, knock yourself out.

Still Samsung has succeeded at one thing … its outstanding commercials recapture the gee-whizzery of the wrist phone, as they take us through a gallery of fantastic applications from the comics and movies leading to the next big thing: your BFF right there on your wrist, ready to two-way, just like Jimmy Olsen and Superman.

What's interesting is that I don't care. And neither, apparently, does anyone else.

The Galaxy Gear has been released with a big tech thud.

It's partly because the watch itself appears to be a work in progress, but the Samsung ads are technically accurate — if oversimplified — and you have to wonder why the smart wrist watch — and other gee-whizzicker products such as Google Glass — don't bring the magic.

Aren't we delighted that the future has finally arrived?

Maybe it's because now that it's here, we don't really like it. It comes with baggage, such as greenhouse gases and Miley Cyrus. And now that we can communicate without wires, it's all too obvious that most of us don't really have anything to say. Hashtag fail.

And instead of escaping into the next future, we're so freaked out by the one we're in that we can only imagine dystopian scenarios featuring the zombie apocalypse, where the zombies know where we are at all times thanks to GPS.

The Galaxy Gear is really an old-fashioned idea. It belongs in the Dick Tracy era with our collective childhood. Your real mobile device is much more powerful and just as handy.

The real future, sad to say, isn't for kids.

ZOOM

Many scribbles make light work

JANNE PARVIAINEN/REX FEATURES

Photo captured with long exposure

A light illusionist did his best to show himself and his wife suffering the hot flashes of a flu. Janne Parviainen, 33, from Helsinki, Finland, created this unsettling image using amazing light techniques and long-exposure photography. The Finn told Metro he created this dazzling light display out of boredom. **METRO**

Making light of the flu

"Having a really bad flu made me focus and concentrate on getting this photograph right. It was like a battle against the odds but I kept telling myself I could do this."

Janne Parviainen, artist and photographer, 33, from Helsinki, Finland

How the artist pulled off the light effect

How did Parviainen pull off this mesmerizing image?

"I set up the camera for a long-exposure photograph," the artist begins. "Then, I created the lines using a flashing red and blue LED light. I was crawling and jumping from one end of the room to the next, all to make sure that every inch of the room was covered in the light." **METRO**

Exposure time in minutes

30

minutes is the time frame Parviainen used to create his long-exposure photograph. All of his surreal photographs, the Finnish photographer claims, are produced manually with no post-production alterations or enhancements.

Clickbait

ANDREW FIFIELD
andrew.fifield@metronews.ca

If all that Nobel news about Francois Englert and Peter Higgs winning the physics prize for their Higgs boson work wasn't enough to turn you onto science for the week, then perhaps the amazing space-is-scary film Gravity and what astronauts have had to say about it has piqued your interest. Here's some breezy reading about science and space while you're tuned in.

This image shows a typical event in the search for the Higgs boson.
COURTESY CERN

Bad Astronomy:

Phil Plait waxes ecstatic about all things extraterrestrial in some of the friendliest wording you'll find on topics that typically trend toward dense. A word of warning: He's generous with links, so it's easy to get lost. (slate.com/blogs/bad_astronomy.html)

Mother Jones:

OK, so this isn't a blog at all. But Kiera Butler, Mother Jones' science writer, is a required addition to your RSS feed for topics ranging from scary business like antibiotic overprescription to comforting news like the benefits of frozen food. (motherjones.com/authors/kiera-butler)

Planetary Society:

The writers who lovingly tend the Planetary Society blogs section are serious eggheads. But if you happen to be a quick study with genius jargon and academic acronyms, you'll soon be up to date on the Comet of the Century. Did you even know one of those was coming? (planetary.org/blogs)

Twitter

@metropicks asked: @Cmdr_Hadfield signed on as an aviation professor at the University of Waterloo. What should his first lesson be about?

@PiscesCurse: How to make a kick-ass music video from space to top all others!

@damianpenny: He should explain how Joel eats and sleeps and other science fact. #mst3k

@_J_T_V_: how to grow an Aviation spec moustache

@hilsmol: "Bad-Asstronomics 101"

@giggyalso: don't take gravity lightly

@josephinecleo: how to master the perfect side-part in space. Astronauts need to look good for the cosmos!

@rurbonas: Calculating the fastest route out of Waterloo and how to avoid Kitchener entirely.

Follow @metropicks and take part in our daily poll.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU:
Send us your comments: londonletters@metronews.ca

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Which celeb driver are you?

You may have moves like Jagger, but when it comes to your driving style, who is your celebrity match? Despite Canada's reputation as a modest nation, a global survey for Kijiji reveals that when it comes to cars, Canadian drivers value style over substance. In fact, as you'll see, there may be more "Beliebers" on our roads than ones saying "hit me baby one more time."
METRO

Image Seekers (27 per cent)

Key values
Brand, design and style are most important.

Global average
23 per cent.

Celebrity Match
Justin Bieber — his Ferarri F430 is rumoured to be as important to him as his hair.

Efficiency Seekers (22 per cent)

Key values
Brand is less of a priority, but reliability, efficiency, and running costs matter.

Global average
22 per cent.

Celebrity Match
Leonardo DiCaprio — he loves hybrids as much as he loves Victoria's Secret models.

Performance Seekers (17 per cent)

Key values
Handling and power are higher up on the list of priorities.

Global average
17 per cent.

Celebrity Match
Jay Leno — he spends as much time shining his muscle cars or at the race tracks as he does prepping his monologues.

Necessity Drivers (19 per cent)

Key values
Say a car is just a tool to get from A to B; most likely to drive a silver or grey Chevy/Toyota/Chrysler.

Global average
17 per cent.

Celebrity Match
James Franco — whether it's luxury or not, he just needs his car to get to his next class.

Risk Takers (five per cent)

Key values
Parks carelessly, more likely to drink and drive.

Global average
11 per cent.

Celebrity Match
Lindsay Lohan— do we really need to elaborate?

Accident Prone (five per cent)

Key values
Despite less obvious risk taking they are still prone to accidents.

Global average
Six per cent.

Celebrity Match
Britney Spears — though she hasn't run over a Police officer's foot or hit a paparazzo lately.

Cautious Drivers (five per cent)

Key values
Rarely has accidents or damages their car.

Global average
Four per cent.

Celebrity Match
Betty White — her driving record is as golden as her television career.

If you've seen one Hanks, you haven't seen them all

New movie. The star of Captain Phillips has avoided being typecast over the years and continually delivers diverse performances

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

Tom Hanks' Captain Phillips opens this weekend. CONTRIBUTED

When you think of the movies of Arnold Schwarzenegger or Sylvester Stallone, gut busting action comes to mind. The names Steve Martin and Adam Sandler are forever connected to comedy, while Daniel Day Lewis is synonymous with serious drama. Meg Ryan? She'll always be a romantic comedy star just as the mere mention of Robert Eglund's name can send a chill down the spine.

But what about Tom Hanks? Hanks is a rarity among A-listers. He's an actor who has avoided stereotyping by pasting together a resumé that includes almost every genre of film.

This weekend he stars in Captain Phillips, a drama based on the true story of the 2009 hijacking of the MV Maersk Alabama by Somali pirates.

It's a heroic role — in real life President Obama said Capt. Richard Phillips' courage "is a model for all Americans" — but it's a far cry from his last movie, Cloud Atlas, which saw him play three characters, one of which tossed a critic out of a skyscraper window.

His varied IMDB listing includes everything from comedies like Splash ("What you looking at? You never seen a guy who slept with a fish before?") to Academy-Award-winning dramas like Philadelphia, where he played a gay lawyer with AIDS suing his firm for discrimination, and Forrest Gump.

In the kids' classic Toy Story (and its subsequent sequels) he's Woody, a stuffed pull-string cowboy doll. Director John Lasseter says he wanted Hanks to play the character because of his "ability to take emotions and make them appealing."

Much darker is Road to Perdition, the 2002 Sam Mendes film that cast Hanks as Michael Sullivan, Sr., an ace hitman who must protect his son from a mob assassin.

"I just got this guy," says Hanks. "If you're a man, and you've got offspring … emotionally, it's devastating."

Different still is Nothing in Common, a dramedy that saw Hanks play a successful advertising executive trying to cope with his parents' (Jackie Gleason and Eva Marie Saint) break up.

Hanks says, "I'm not looking for any particular kind of story," and his varied approach to his work hasn't hurt him one bit. Recently he was named America's "best-liked movie star," in a poll by Public Policy Polling.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Miley Cyrus. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

If Miley wants Liam back, she'd better make nice with the sister-in-law

Apparently another woman played a major role in the break-up of Miley Cyrus and Liam Hemsworth, but it wasn't another girlfriend. According to Radar Online, Hemsworth's sister-in-law, Elsa Pataky, "is no fan of Miley" and urged him to break off their engagement.

"Elsa is totally against Miley and Liam getting back together. She spent the last year freezing Miley out in some kind of passive-aggressive move," a source says.

"Miley desperately wants to get back with Liam and believes she can because she's done it before. But to do that, she's going to have to win over Elsa."

It's officially splitsville for Jennifer and Noah

Nearly three years after separating, Jennifer Jason Leigh and director Noah Baumbach are officially divorced, according to E! News. The couple was married for five years and have one child together, three-year-old Rohmer Baumbach.

According to court documents, Leigh and Baumbach have "equally divided all of their community assets and liabilities" and resolved all custody issues. At the time of her initial divorce filing, Leigh had left the date of their actual separation blank, but has since listed it as Nov. 5, 2010.

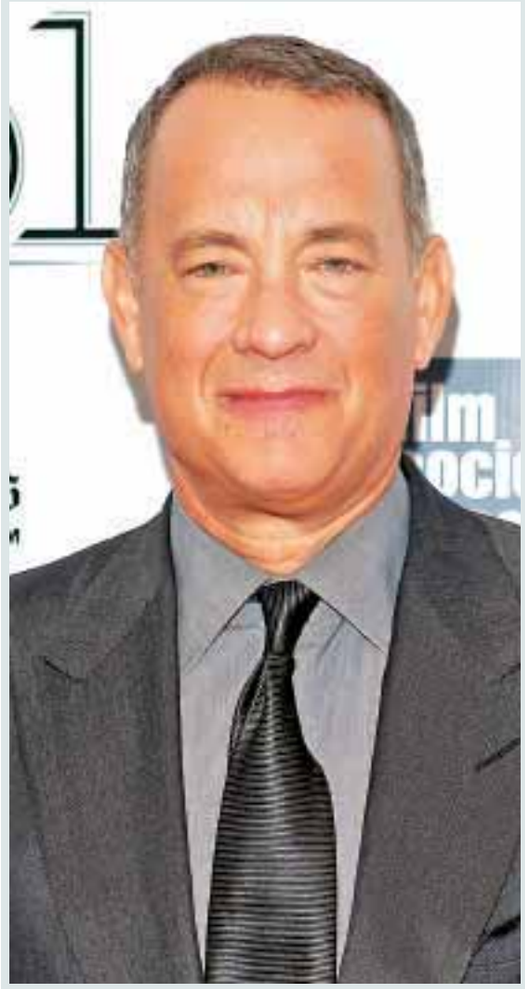
Jennifer Jason Leigh

Halle's baby gets a moniker with meaning

Halle Berry and Olivier Martinez have picked a name for their newborn son, and it's Maceo Robert Martinez, according to E! News. "They chose it because it means gift from God," a source says. "Olivier wanted to give a nod to his Spanish roots. They picked the name a while ago. They love it."

Halle Berry

The Word



Why Tom Hanks can't get down to fighting weight

MELINDA TAUB
Metro World News

Get back, cookies. You leave our Tom Hanks alone.

The beloved star, whose film Captain Phillips comes out this week, revealed last night on the Late Show that he has Type 2 diabetes.

"I went to the doctor and she said, 'You know those high blood-sugar numbers you've been dealing with since you were 36? Well, you've graduated,'" he said to David Letterman. "'You've got Type 2 diabetes, young man.'"

Hanks said his doctor did offer him an escape strategy. "She said, 'Look, if you can weigh as much as you did in high school, you will essentially be completely healthy, you will not have Type 2 diabetes.' And I said to her, 'Well, I'm going to have Type 2 diabetes.' Because there is no way I can weigh as much as I did in high school."

Come on. Tom looks like he's already in pretty good shape. He can make it. How much did he weigh in high school? "I weighed 96 pounds in high school," he claims. "And most of that was that big, wide afro."

OK. Maybe just try to ride that Type 2 wave, then.

Drew Barrymore

A Griswolds-style family would be dandy with Drew

Drew Barrymore's first child, daughter Olive, may just be a year old, but Barrymore is ready to do the whole pregnancy thing again, telling Jay Leno during an interview that she and husband Will Kopelman "very much" want another baby — and "right away," if possible. "I grew up as an only child, and although that really works for some people and for some parents that's the way they want to do it, I want to be the Griswolds," she says. "I want the kids in the back rolling their eyes at mom and dad. I want Rusty and Audrey, theme parks and the whole nine."

Kate's kid dreams of a neon-green wedding

Kate Hudson

Kate Hudson and fiancé Matt Bellamy have been engaged for more than two years but have yet to set a wedding date — which is apparently a problem for Hudson's older son, nine-year-old Ryder, who has been applying "a little bit" of pressure on the actress to walk down the aisle.

"I think he looks forward to more the party than the actual idea of us getting married. He apparently wants to wear a neon green tux," Hudson tells Ellen DeGeneres during an interview. "He loves neon green. He wants to wear neon green with black. That's pretty cool. He's a bit of a fashion boy."

Twitter

@KellyOsbourne
I have been punched in the face by men but nothing has hurt more than being head butted in the jaw by my bulldog William! my teeth even hurt

@TomArnold
Put a very comfortable day bed in your son's nursery because he'll be in your bed with mom and that's where you'll be watching Sports Center

@JuddApatow
Leslie is searching for hoarder experts for me. I think she is overreacting. I will definitely get to that issue of Time Magazine from 98.

@oliviawilde
Glad to hear my hometown DC has now decided to change the name of their football team, after I spent my childhood cheering a racial slur.

Headed to Mexico this winter? Want to go surfing? Hidden away on the Pacific Coast, the town of Puerto Escondido is generating buzz thanks to a starring role in HGTV's season premiere of Live Here, Buy This! The draw? The Mexican Pipeline, an unforgiving wave that attracts an international surfing crowd. Travel writer Michele Peterson created an app offering an insider's guide to Mexico's Surf City. Here are a few excerpts.

5 Hot spots in Puerto Escondido

Cafes & quick bites: Osa Mariposa

This hip hostel, just two blocks from the beach, appeals to backpackers and surfers. Choose from private bungalows or shared dormitories (four to a room). The clean and spacious bathrooms are superior to many others in this price range. The on-site restaurant offers a menu of tasty veggie and vegan options. Don't miss the black bean veggie burgers. Mescal and tequila figure highly at the bar. The website has a helpful map. You'll need it to find the place: osamariposa.com.

Lodging: Aqua Luna Hotel

This sleek, minimalist boutique hotel owned by an Aussie long boarder and his Mexican wife, offers a sophisticated escape in 16 rooms at wallet-friendly prices ranging from $25-$70 per night or $700 monthly for kitchenette rooms. The pearl-white walls, violet-hued swimming pool and adults-only policy creates a sensual Miami SoBe retreat, conveniently perched above Zicatela, the hippest beach with the most wave action. hotel-aqualuna.com.

Adventure/culture: Oasis Surf and Language School

Even your pre-schooler can take Spanish classes at this professional language school located in the Rinconada neighbourhood. The school offers beginner, intermediate and advanced classes as well as specialized medical Spanish for health-care professionals. A full slate of cultural activities is available, including a learn-to-surf program. The school can also arrange volunteer experiences if you'd like to give back to the community and practise your new lingo at the same time. Visit oasislanguageschool.com. A five-day week of one-and-a-half-hour language classes costs about $75 US. Surfing classes cost around $35 US per class, with discounts on packages.

Natural attractions: Zicatela Beach

The main strip flanking Calle del Morro is packed with surf shops, restaurants, cafés, hotels and booming nightclubs. If you long to feel the sand between your toes, the wide beach is dotted with loungers, Bali beds and hammocks — all free to use with the purchase of a consumo (drink or snack). This is where the epic Mexican Pipeline wave breaks, so the main draw is surfing, but you can also take yoga classes, have a massage or book an excursion all within a few block radius. Strong surf and undertow makes this beach dangerous for swimmers. The red flag is always flying but depending on the tides, it's possible to find a shallow tidal pool and splash about like a duckling.

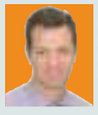
Bars & drink: Casa Babylon

Bookstore by day, nightclub by night. This unusual combination of bookstore/coffee shop and nightclub is weird enough to work. An eclectic decor of Mexican masks, Asian statues and rough-hewn furniture morphs effectively from a quiet haven into a pulsing nightclub with techno music, reggae, funk and live bands. Exchange some books, play a board game or two and then come back to party.

THE PUERTO ESCONDIDO TRAVEL ESSENTIALS APP, PACKED WITH UP-TO-DATE INSIDER TIPS, IS AVAILABLE FOR $2.99 IN THE APP STORE AT PUERTO ESCONDIDO TRAVEL ESSENTIALS OR ON GOOGLE PLAY.

Cruising

A riverboat fantasy — come true



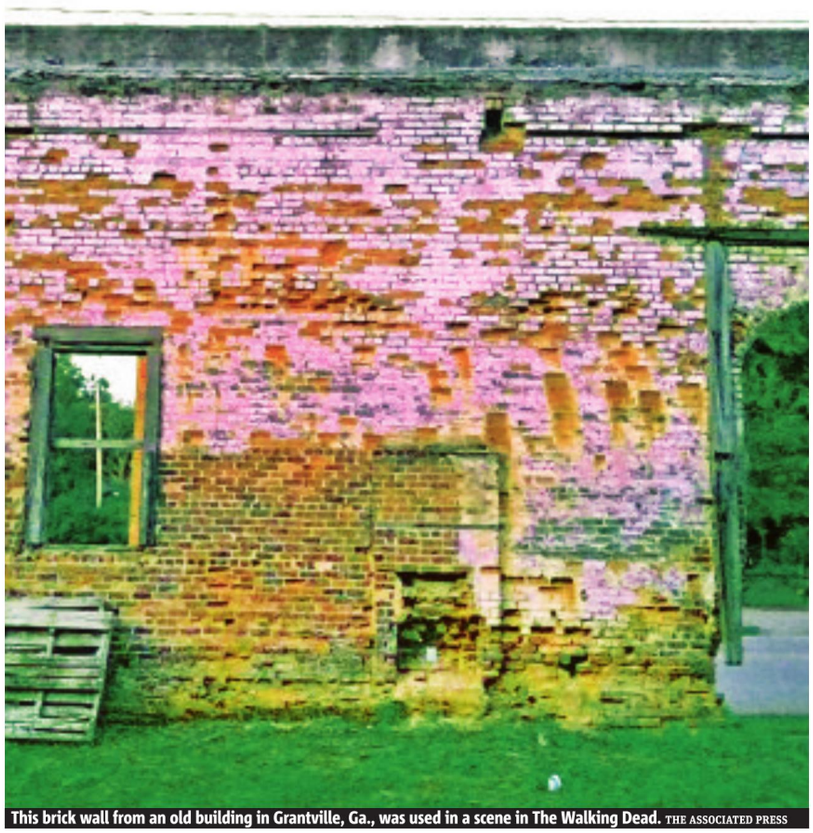
ON THE MOVE
Loren Christie
life@metronews.ca

The exploding popularity of river cruising is hardly surprising.

The most endearing quality of a river cruise is the intimacy it offers. A standard ship has capacity for 150 to 200 guests versus an ocean liner, which typically has 1,000-plus guests onboard. This allows you to get to know your travelling companions and removes the annoyance of having to stand in long lines to embark, disembark or simply enjoy a meal. River cruising also provides easy access to the destinations. At most stops you can wander into town from the dock or hop a short coach ride to a city centre. The distances between stops are typically much shorter than a standard cruise, allowing for the possibility of one to two stops per day and never having to spend a long day at sea. Although the most popular routes are in Europe, there are sailings available in countries as diverse as China, Russia and Vietnam.

There are various companies in the market. At the top end is Scenic Tours. They appear to be on the pricey end but bear in mind they are the only true all-inclusive river cruise company. The other big players are Uniworld, AMA, Viking and Avalon. Emerald Waterways is the latest company to ply the rivers. It is a four-star product with fewer services and a lower price point, all aimed at attracting a younger demographic.

River cruising is taking off around the world. ISTOCK



This brick wall from an old building in Grantville, Ga., was used in a scene in The Walking Dead. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Walking Dead bring life to tiny town

Grateful Grantville.

Visitors flocking to town to see spooky sets from season three

When the cotton mill closed, the rural Georgia town of Grantville began a slow transformation into a ghost town. Residents fled. Storefronts faded. Buildings decayed.

Over the decades, time turned the remains of the town into something almost post-apocalyptic, the perfect modern-day set for humans and "walkers" to attack one another. That's how the hugely popular TV show The Walking Dead ended up coming to town and bringing new life to Grantville.

Several key scenes in one episode from the AMC series were filmed on and near a one-block stretch of antique buildings on Grantville's Main Street.

The series' fourth season premieres on Oct. 13. Crews have been filming the new episodes in Georgia, but they keep locations of future episodes closely guarded secrets until the shows air.

In Grantville, the town's ruins were featured prominently last season. Bodies of walkers slain on the show were buried in a vacant lot beneath the brick archway remaining from a cotton mill building. Gunshots were fired from a nearby rooftop.

And child actor Chandler Riggs, who plays Carl Grimes on the show, entertained himself between scenes by placing pennies on the railroad tracks, the coins soon smashed into souvenirs by passing freight trains.

Now, every Saturday, visitors from around the country and the world turn off Interstate 85 and onto a two-lane highway that leads to the tiny town 80 kilometres southwest of Atlanta.

Draw of the Dead

Other productions have taken place in Grantville, but none have drawn the visitors like The Walking Dead. "Nobody came after they filmed Lawless and Broken Bridges here," says Mayor Jim Sells. "But once this episode aired from The Walking Dead, people started showing up from all over."

Since last summer, more than 3,600 visitors have taken a free tour led by Grantville Mayor Jim Sells, who explains where each scene from the Clear episode — during which the character Morgan makes it his mission to "clear" walkers by killing them — was filmed.

Visitors have come from as far as Australia, Singapore and Brazil, rejuvenating the town through tourism.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Thai take on Butternut Squash soup

1. In a stock or large soup pot over medium-low, heat the oil. Add the onions, garlic and salt and cook until the onions have softened, about 10 minutes. Stir in the ginger and curry paste and cook for a minute or two more. Add the squash and water and bring to a boil. Reduce the heat and simmer until the squash is tender, 15 to 20 minutes.

2. While the squash is cooking, zest and juice the lime. Add about a teaspoon of the zest and 1 tablespoon of the juice to the pot (reserving the extra). When the squash is tender, stir in the coconut milk.

3. Transfer soup to a blender or food processor, then purée until smooth. Be careful when blending hot liquids.

4. Return all of the soup to the pot and reheat. Taste and adjust the flavour as you wish with spoonful of sugar, if desired, as well as additional lime juice and/or curry paste. Stir in the spinach and cilantro and heat until just wilted. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ (RECIPE ADAPTED FROM THE MOOSEWOOD COLLECTIVE'S MOOSEWOOD RESTAURANT FAVOURITES, 2013, ST. MARTIN'S GRIFFIN)

Ingredients

- 2 tbsp vegetable oil
- 2 cups chopped yellow onions
- 2 cloves garlic, chopped
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 tbsp peeled and grated fresh ginger
- 1 tsp Thai red curry paste, or more to taste
- 2 1/2-lb butternut squash, peeled, seeded and chopped (about 6 cups)
- 3 cups water
- 1 lime
- 1 cup unsweetened coconut milk
- Sugar
- 2 cups baby spinach, cut into chiffonade
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh cilantro (optional)

This recipe serves six. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Drink of the Week

Thyme Gimlet

- 2 oz Belvedere vodka
- 3/4 oz thyme syrup*
- 3/4 oz lemon juice

Shake with cubed ice and strain over ice into a rocks glass. Garnish with lemon and thyme sprig.

***Thyme Syrup**

- 7-8 sprigs of fresh thyme
- 480 ml (16 oz) water
- 480 ml (16 oz) white sugar

Simmer thyme in the water for approximately 10 to 15 minutes or until you see the thyme go brown. Remove thyme and add sugar. Stir until dissolved. Cool and funnel into a glass bottle. Keep refrigerated. COURTESY BELVEDERE VODKA

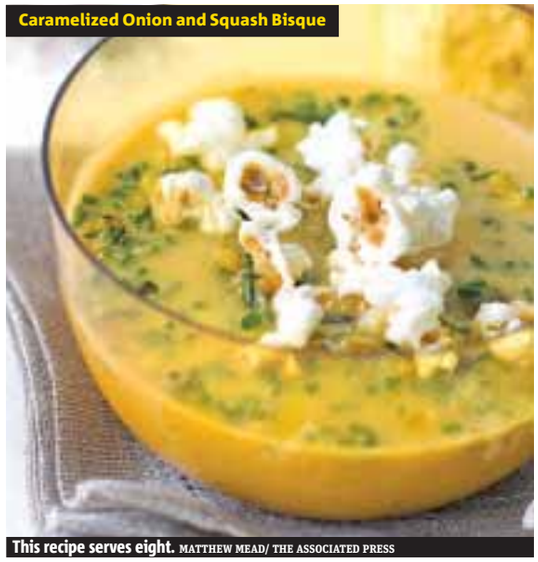
Oh, the places this fall bisque will take your taste buds

1. In saucepan over medium-high, heat vegetable oil. Add onions, shallots, salt and herbs, then sauté 5 minutes. Reduce heat to medium and continue to cook, stirring often, until the onions are soft and brown, about another 20 minutes.

2. Add vinegar and deglaze pan. Add squash and 3 cups of broth, then bring to simmer. Cover and cook until squash is completely tender, 15 to 20 minutes. Working in batches, transfer the soup to a blender and purée until smooth. Alternatively, purée the soup in the pot using an immersion blender. Either way, take care when blending hot liquids.

3. Return bisque to heat and stir in cream. If a thinner bisque is desired, thin the soup with the remaining cup of broth. Heat until just hot. Season with salt and pepper. To serve, finish with any of the following:

Caramelized Onion and Squash Bisque



This recipe serves eight. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Spiced Shrimp and Scallions
Toss 12 ounces of small cooked shrimp with 1 teaspoon five-spice powder. Top with sliced scallions.

Asiago and Apple
Stir 2 finely diced apples into the bisque, then bring back to a simmer. Top with shredded Asiago cheese.

Barbecue Pulled Pork
Stir together 2 cups of shredded/pulled cooked pork with 1/3 cup barbecue sauce. Top the soup first with the pork, then a dollop of sour cream and chopped fresh cilantro.

Ingredients

- 2 tbsp vegetable oil
- 2 large sweet onions, diced
- 2 medium shallots, chopped
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 tsp dried Italian herbs
- 2 tbsp apple cider vinegar
- 1 1/2 lbs cubed, peeled butternut squash
- 3 to 4 cups low-sodium chicken broth
- 1 cup heavy cream
- Salt and ground black pepper

Two Corn and Herbs
Cook 1 cup of thawed frozen corn kernels on high in a skillet with 1 tablespoon of oil until lightly browned. Stir the kernels into the bisque along with 2 tablespoons each of chopped fresh tarragon, thyme and chives. Finish by topping the bisque with salted, buttered popcorn.

Peppered Jack
Stir in 1 diced red bell pepper and 1/4 cup diced pickled jalapenos. Top with shredded pepper jack cheese.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lunch. Spiced Squash

1. Cut squash in half crosswise and peel using a vegetable peeler. Remove seeds and chop squash to yield about 1.25 l (5 cups).

2. In a soup pot, heat oil over medium heat and cook onion and garlic for 3 minutes. Add squash, oregano, paprika and cinnamon and cook, stirring, for 2 minutes. Add broth and bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer for about 25 minutes or until squash is very tender.

3. Using an immersion blender, purée soup until smooth. Alternatively, ladle into blender or food processor in batches and purée until smooth. Return to soup pot, stir in coriander and warm through. THE CANADIAN PRESS/ EMILY RICHARDS, PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST

Ingredients

- 1 small butternut squash (about 1 kg/2 lb)
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) canola oil
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 10 ml (2 tsp) dried oregano leaves
- 5 ml (1 tsp) paprika
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) ground cinnamon
- 1.25 l (5 cups) vegetable broth
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) chopped fresh coriander

Who's turning up at the interview table?

Interrogation differentiation.

Five types of tough interviewers and how to handle each

MEGHAN GREAVES
TalentEgg.ca

Walking into an interview is not the most relaxing activity out there.

This is partly because interviews come with many unknowns.

What questions will an interviewer ask? What skills should you focus on? How long will the interview be?

One of the biggest unknowns when going into an interview is: what will the interviewer be like?

An interviewer's personality can be a hard thing to predict until you actually come face to face in the interview. To help you be savvy to the types of interviewers you might face as a student or new grad on the job hunt, here are a few dominant interviewer personality types and how to adjust successfully to them on the spot.

Don't let this trio of tough talkers intimidate you. Keeping calm and carrying on will show them you're ready to cruise into this career. ISTOCK

Rambling

A rambler is an interviewer who is chatty, friendly and outgoing.

Though this behaviour may be a relief when you first start the interview, try not to let your guard down too much.

In order to ensure that you're able to communicate the information that matters (skills, experience and so on), you'll need to single out the relevant aspects of the discussion and answer each question concisely and skillfully.

Shy

Usually it's the interviewee who feels shy, but interviewers can be a ball of nerves as well.

If you encounter a shy interviewer, the main thing is to understand that this is just their personality — not that you're performing poorly. Shy interviewers can be hard to read, difficult to create a conversation with and may wrap up the entire thing quickly.

The smart thing to do in this situation is to pick up on their personality type right away so you don't panic. To ease the atmosphere, try to be friendly, put them at ease and end in a positive way with a handshake.

Harsh

The great thing about this type of interviewer personality is that you'll recognize it the moment you walk in the door, which gives you more time to adjust successfully.

With questions being fired rapidly, an edgy tone and intimidating body language it can be easy to unravel on the spot. The key to magnificently performing with a harsh interviewer is to keep your composure. Take your time to answer each question, speak in a calm and paced manner and minimize small talk.

And last but not least...

Nosy interviewers tend to unintentionally stray away from work-related questions during an interview.

- They may be trying to get you to reveal a little too much about your personality and life outside of work, or they may just be naturally inquisitive. In either case, you have to bring them back to the focus of the interview: you.
- You can usually figure out that you're being interviewed by a nosy interviewer within the first few minutes of the interview.
- Avoid being drawn into answering personal questions with noncommittal or brief answers and a polite return to the topic at hand.

Inexperienced

Shaky hands, questions that don't flow together, quick exits and awkward conversations are all signs of an inexperienced or unprepared interviewer.

As the interviewee this can be surprising, but the key to having a stellar interview with an inexperienced interviewer is not being thrown off track. With this type of interviewer you need to be sure that even though they might not be addressing questions that allow you to showcase your information, you do it yourself.

Keep to your key points of discussion, relate them back to the position at hand in plain language and treat the interviewer professionally in order to keep things on track.

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LOYALTY LOVE AFFAIR

Consumer loyalty programs have become an ingrained part of Canadian life. From the iconic Canadian Tire money to the latest digital smartphone wizardry, competition continues to evolve and raise the stakes for businesses and deliver benefits to consumers.

Canadians are global leaders in loyalty program participation. The average Canadian household is active in 9.2 programs. By comparison, the average American household is active in only 6.2 programs.

An ongoing study by Canadian research firm Abacus Data found that an astounding nine in 10 Canadian adults belong to loyalty programs.

"These statistics haven't really shifted much during the three surveys we conducted in 2013," says Sean Copeland, Abacus Data's director of consumer research. "We consistently see most Canadians using three or more rewards programs on a regular basis to collect points or miles for future redemption."

The most popular loyalty programs in Canada are Air Miles Rewards (seven in 10 Canadians), and the Shoppers Optimum program (three in 10 Canadians). While these cards won't disappear from Canadian wallets anytime soon, there are big changes on the horizon as Canadian businesses adjust to the shifting consumer loyalty landscape.

Research shows Canadians are most interested in loyalty programs that are simple, clear, and deliver instant rewards.

The American retail giant Target, currently opening stores in Canada, is taking heed. Target's "Red Card," a branded debit or credit card, gives shoppers an instant five per cent off at checkout for every purchase.

Target aims to not only draw new customers, but to also fill each shopping cart with a little more merchandise. Experts contend that the Red Card adds between one and two per cent to the total of each checkout at Target, and more established Canadian competitors are expected to follow suit with similar offers.

An emerging trend in consumer loyalty programs is the use of smartphone-based applications to replace physical cards.

Canada's largest grocer recently launched a new digital loyalty program targeting customers with individually tailored promotions. PC Plus, the Loblaw program, targets customers using their purchase histories, offering discounts on items they buy regularly, along with products they might be interested in, but need an incentive to try.

– Peter Doyle

CONSUMERS WANT MORE AND WANT IT NOW

While Canadians are still very much in love with consumer loyalty programs, it appears the relationship has moved into a new and more demanding phase.

Token gifts and promises are no longer enough — consumers now want bigger rewards, and expect to be able to access them sooner.

The attitude shift became clear following Loblaw's acquisition of Shoppers Drug Mart. Optimum, the pharmacy retailer's rewards card, is Canada's most popular customer reward program. When the acquisition was announced, Optimum members flooded social media sites and the program's call centre with their concerns. Both retail chains were forced to reassure consumers about the program's future.

"Canadians have grown up with loyalty programs in many circumstances, so there's almost an expectation," says Kevin O'Brien, chief commercial officer at Aeroplan Canada.

O'Brien is all too familiar with the potential consequences of failing to meet consumer expectations. In 2006, Aeroplan announced an expiry date for points accumulated under the program.

DMITRY KALINOVSKY/COLOURBOX

Not surprisingly, consumer reaction was intensely negative and Aeroplan's subsequent struggles led to a complete redesign of the program — and new credit card partners — earlier this year.

Clearly, consumers no longer consider rewards a simple perk; today, they expect to be properly compensated for their loyalty. Most members of customer loyalty programs recognize they are providing retailers with valuable information; they are determined to get something in return. Goodbye romance, hello interest-based negotiations.

A 2013 white paper published by Environics Research reflects just how much the loyalty program landscape has shifted. The paper reviewed 22 loyalty programs and outlines a new way to determine their relative value — a measure it calls "time to reward." The new measure takes into account both the potential value of reward points a consumer receives for a given purchase, as well as the amount of shopping required before "cashing in" those points.

"When it comes to loyalty programs, what is ultimately most important to the consumer is being able to understand how long it will take them to achieve their desired reward," the study states.

The report suggests that the best way to meet these expectations — and to retain members — is to provide consumers with opportunities to collect points quickly, such as through "double-dip" offers (twice the amount of rewards for buying specific products).

– Peter Doyle

REAP YOUR REWARDS FASTER

Loyalty programs offer the opportunity to be rewarded for purchases you make every day. However, with so many programs to choose from and so much information available, it is easy to miss out on the ones that would get you to your chosen reward faster.

To help clear through the clutter, a new, free online tool (compareloyaltyprograms.ca) asks a few simple questions and recommends up to three programs that will get you to your chosen rewards faster based on your preferred rewards, lifestyle and shopping habits. What's really new and unique about the tool is that it strategically evaluates cards based on "time to reward" or how quickly you can reach your desired reward.

According to the 2013 COLLOQUY Loyalty Census, the average Canadian household is involved in about eight loyalty programs. Rewards fall into three categories — cash, merchandise or travel — and, historically, people have signed up from the point-of-view of "how much do I have to spend in order to get rewards."

"But it's not just about the dividend or payout rate that these programs offer," says David MacDonald, group VP, custom/financial, Environics Research Group. "It's about how you accumulate points and how quickly you can get a reward of some sizable value to you."

The tool, which was created by Environics Research Group, is quick and simple to use. All you have to do is enter a bit of information about shopping preferences and habits, and which type of rewards you prefer. Then, the tool determines up to three Canadian loyalty programs or affiliated credit cards that are most likely to get you $100 in rewards faster.

The evaluation is based on substantial research into Canadians' habits using loyalty programs and what kinds of rewards they prefer, says Ken Wong, marketing professor at Queen's School of Business, Kingston, Ont., who reviewed and approved the research methodology.

"The tool provides just three cards to consider, and that is easier than consumers having to compare 20 or 30 programs."

Also, you can fill out the tool several times if you want to see how differences in shopping habits and choices impact the variables and the cards recommended.

"The three cards you are presented with make most sense for the spending patterns you have entered," MacDonald says.

HOW TO MAXIMIZE PROGRAMS

• Reduce the number of loyalty programs you belong to, says Frank Pons, professor of marketing, Laval University. "When people have a lot of loyalty programs and cards, the tendency is to disperse points. Cards are really efficient if you focus on just one or two specific programs."

• Aggregate your points. "The more often you use the same card, the more points you will accumulate, and the faster you will get rewards," says Ken Wong, marketing professor at Queen's School of Business.

HEMERA/THINKSTOCK

• Choose loyalty programs based on your lifestyle. If you have the same card you had as a student and now you are married with kids, you probably aren't taking full advantage of points. "Maybe one spouse should sign up for one rewards program and do most of the shopping in that category and the other person do another," says David MacDonald, group VP, custom/financial, Environics Research Group.

• Double dip. Take advantage of loyalty programs that are affiliated with a credit card. "I was using a loyalty card and an unaffiliated credit card, and that forced me to spread my points rather than put them together and double up points," Wong says.

• Be wise with credit. Credit card programs can be a great way to super-charge your time to reward — there are often additional bonus rewards simply by using the credit card. But if you don't pay off the credit card balance every month, Pons says, you end up paying interest and not making a lot of money.

TOP 20 IN CANADA

Here are the top 20 loyalty programs by percentage of usage in Canada, based on the percentage of Canadians who collected rewards over a three-month period in 2012.

• AIR MILES Reward Program — 68 per cent
• Shoppers Optimum — 30 per cent
• HBC Rewards — 26 per cent
• Canadian Tire Money — 23 per cent
• Aeroplan — 23 per cent
• PETRO-POINTS — 18 per cent
• PC Points — 13 per cent
• Scene — 10 per cent
• Club Sobeys — 10 per cent
• Sears Card — 10 per cent
• Esso Extra — eight per cent
• CAA — seven per cent
• Save-On-More — seven per cent
• Plum Rewards — seven per cent
• RBC Rewards — seven per cent
• Best Buy Rewards — six per cent
• RBC Avion — three per cent
• Desjardins — three per cent
• AMEX Rewards — three per cent
• Walmart Rewards — three per cent

New Lightning player a 'diamond in the rough'

NBL Canada. Coach Richardson gushes about 6-10 guard with 'NBA skills' at London training camp

DAVE LANGFORD
dave.langford@metronews.ca

To the layman, it's difficult to tell the difference between a National Basketball League of Canada player and someone who can play in that other professional league with a similar name.

The London Lightning may just have added a player who will eventually do both.

Lightning coach Micheal Ray Richardson, a former NBA all-star, said Maurice Bolden, a six-foot-10 guard (yes, a guard) is just that good. And he has only been at camp — and in Canada — for three days.

"He's unbelievable. He has NBA skills. He's young. He has a great opportunity," Richardson said after practice Tuesday. "If he keeps working, he definitely is going to get there."

Richardson said Bolden, 23, will not only make the Lightning, he will also get "lots of playing time."

"He was a diamond in the rough."

Bolden hails from Jackson, Miss., and played college ball at Southern Mississippi Last year. He has divided his time since playing pro in Poland and Cyprus.

Maurice Bolden, right, chats with a teammate as they watch a scrimmage Tuesday during London Lightning training camp. ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

Bolden, a centre in college, said the Lightning's Richardson had a lot to do with his decision to give Canada a go.

"Coach (Richardson) is a great guy. Well-known in the United States and in the NBA. I think he can teach me a lot off and on the court," Bolden said.

Bolden said he's here to get a "higher basketball IQ."

"Coaches are working with me. The older guys are working very well with me. It's a very talented camp," he said.

Richardson agrees.

"It's the most talented camp that I have been involved with (in eight years of coaching)," Richardson said.

Lightning roster trimmed

The Lightning trimmed its 22-man roster by five Tuesday, cutting guard Marquiz Baker, Willie Whitfield, Stefan Welsh, Rico Pickett and Cam Bell.

- Workouts continue daily until Monday at the YMCA centre branch. The team will move to Budweiser Gardens next Tuesday morning, followed by the Black and Yellow intra-squad game at 7 p.m. that evening. The public is invited.

Marner just might be next great Knight

Knights centre Mitch Marner on Tuesday at Budweiser Gardens. ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

The London Knights have had some pretty exciting players to watch over the years.

Schremp, Perry, Kane and Domi all fit into that category. And Tavares and Del Zotto weren't bad either.

But make some room for Knights rookie Mitch Marner.

Marner, who turned 16 years old in May, scored his first OHL goal on Saturday against Guelph and is now tied for the team points lead with nine, adding in his eight assists.

"Right from the beginning of training camp, you could tell he was special," Knights assistant coach Dylan Hunter said Tuesday at practice. "I think the fans even notice it already. When he wheels in from behind the net, I think they get very excited because they know what's going on.

"He does have that little flair."

One minute when discussing Marner, Hunter was making reference to Corey Perry. A few minutes later, it was Patrick Kane.

"(Marner's) obviously skilled. But I think it's more the determination. The will to go (for) the front of the net," Hunter said. "When he gets the puck, he does the right thing with it."

Marner was thrilled to get his first goal.

"Everyone was excited for me. Everyone was supporting me. Telling me I would get it soon and to finally get it was great," he said.

Marner will get a chance at his second goal Thursday when the Knights play the Sting in Sarnia. They return home Friday for a 7:30 p.m. start against Belleville.

DAVE LANGFORD/METRO

‘I’m loving it’: Avs’ big Mac settling into the big leagues

Colorado Avalanche centre Nathan MacKinnon warms up as the Toronto Maple Leafs play the Avalanche at Air Canada Centre in Toronto on Tuesday. For more on the game go to metronews.ca. STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

NHL. Rookie MacKinnon mobbed by media before game vs. Leafs

Teenager Nathan MacKinnon is clearly enjoying his NHL rookie season ride.

The 18-year-old centre from Cole Harbour, N.S., was all smiles Tuesday as the media descended on his stall in the box-sized visitors’ dressing room at Air Canada Centre.

The Colorado rookie took the time to pull on an Avalanche cap and then enthused about life in the big league.

Asked what has surprised him about the NHL, he replied: “I guess how good they treat us here.

“It’s awesome. I’m loving every second of it. The travelling with the team, the way that they treat the players is pretty special. Obviously a little different than junior but I can’t complain about that either, it’s been great.”

The Avs are taking care not to pile the pressure on the top pick in the 2013 draft. MacKinnon, who has three assists in two games, is playing on the third line with Jamie McGinn and P.A. Parenteau.

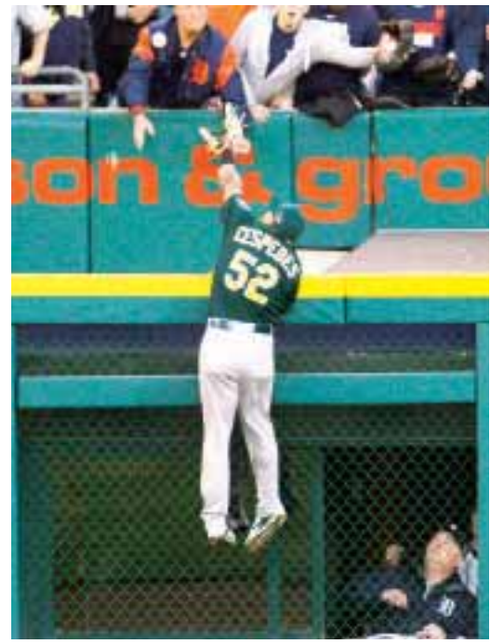
“It’s the perfect fit for him,” said head coach Patrick Roy. “He doesn’t have to come here and be the saviour. He can come in here and be himself and play.”

Away from the rink, MacKinnon lives with veteran Jean-Sebastien Giguere. The 36-year-old goalie is married to a Halifax native and has three kids. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Coach’s corner

“I felt like I was watching him fight (Mike) Vernon back in the day. It was pretty funny.”

Avalanche centre Matt Duchene on coach Patrick Roy’s outburst last week at Anaheim.



Win just out of reach for A’s

Oakland Athletics left fielder Yoenis Cespedes stretches over the wall but misses a three-run home run hit by the Detroit Tigers’ Jhonny Peralta during Game 4 in Detroit, Tuesday. The Tigers rallied past the Athletics 8-6 to force a decisive fifth game in their AL division series. DUANE BURLESON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Toronto	3	3	0	0	12	8	6
Boston	2	2	0	0	7	2	4
Detroit	3	2	1	0	6	7	4
Ottawa	2	1	0	1	5	5	3
Florida	2	1	1	0	4	9	2
Montreal	2	1	1	0	7	5	2
Tampa Bay	2	1	1	0	4	5	2
Buffalo	3	0	3	0	2	7	0

METROPOLITAN DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Pittsburgh	2	2	0	0	7	1	4
Carolina	2	1	0	1	4	4	3
N.Y. Islanders	2	1	0	1	6	6	3
N.Y. Rangers	2	1	1	0	4	5	2
Columbus	2	1	1	0	6	6	2
Washington	3	1	2	0	10	12	2
New Jersey	3	0	1	2	7	12	2
Philadelphia	3	0	3	0	3	9	0

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
St. Louis	2	2	0	0	11	2	4
Colorado	2	2	0	0	9	2	4
Winnipeg	3	2	1	0	12	10	4
Chicago	2	1	0	1	8	7	3
Dallas	2	1	1	0	4	5	2
Minnesota	2	0	0	2	5	7	2
Nashville	2	0	2	0	3	7	0

PACIFIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
San Jose	2	2	0	0	8	2	4
Anaheim	3	2	1	0	8	11	4
Vancouver	3	2	1	0	12	10	4
Calgary	3	1	0	2	12	13	4
Phoenix	2	1	1	0	5	5	2
Los Angeles	3	1	2	0	7	10	2
Edmonton	3	1	2	0	11	15	2

Note: Two points for a win, one point for an overtime/shootout loss.

Tuesday’s results
Colorado at Toronto
Phoenix at N.Y. Islanders
Florida at Philadelphia
Carolina at Pittsburgh
Tampa Bay at Buffalo
Minnesota at Nashville
New Jersey at Vancouver
NY Rangers at San Jose

Monday’s results
Edmonton 5 New Jersey 4 (SO)
N.Y. Rangers 3 Los Angeles 1

Wednesday’s games — All Times Eastern
Montreal at Calgary, 8 p.m.
Chicago at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
Ottawa at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.

MLB PLAYOFFS

A.L. DIVISION SERIES

(Best-of-5; x — played only if necessary)

BOSTON (1) VS. TAMPA BAY (6)

(Boston leads series 2-1)
Tuesday’s result
Boston at Tampa Bay
Monday’s result
Tampa Bay 5 Boston 4
Thursday’s game
x-Tampa Bay (Moore 17-4) at Boston (Lester 15-8), 5:37 p.m.

OAKLAND (2) VS. DETROIT (3)

(Series tied 2-2)
Tuesday’s result
Detroit 8 Oakland 6
Monday’s result
Oakland 6 Detroit 3
Thursday’s game
Detroit (Scherzer 21-3) at Oakland (Colon 18-6), 9:07 p.m.

N.L. DIVISION SERIES

ST. LOUIS (1) VS. PITTSBURGH (4)

(Series tied 2-2)
Monday’s result
St. Louis 2 Pittsburgh 1
Wednesday’s game
Pittsburgh (Burnett 10-11) at St. Louis (Wainwright 19-9), 5:07 p.m.

ATLANTA (2) VS. L.A. DODGERS (3)

(Los Angeles Dodgers wins series 3-1)
Monday’s result
Los Angeles Dodgers 4 Atlanta 3

CFL

WEEK 16

EAST

	GP	W	L	T	PF	PA	Pt
x-Toronto	14	9	5	0	407	370	18
x-Hamilton	14	7	7	0	360	383	14
Montreal	14	6	8	0	349	385	12
Winnipeg	14	2	12	0	279	459	4

WEST

	GP	W	L	T	PF	PA	Pt
x-Calgary	14	11	3	0	446	323	22
x-Saskatchewan	14	9	5	0	419	316	18
x-B.C.	14	9	5	0	395	350	18
Edmonton	14	3	11	0	340	409	6

x — clinched playoff berth.
Friday’s game — All Times Eastern
B.C. at Calgary, 9 p.m.
Saturday’s game
Edmonton at Saskatchewan, 4:30 p.m.
Monday, Oct. 14
Winnipeg at Montreal, 1 p.m.
Toronto vs. Hamilton (at Guelph), 4:30 p.m.

NFL

WEEK SIX

Thursday’s game — All Times Eastern
N.Y. Giants at Chicago, 8:25 p.m.
Sunday’s games
Detroit at Cleveland, 1 p.m.
Green Bay at Baltimore, 1 p.m.
St. Louis at Houston, 1 p.m.
Cincinnati at Buffalo, 1 p.m.
Pittsburgh at N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m.
Philadelphia at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.
Carolina at Minnesota, 1 p.m.
Oakland at Kansas City, 1 p.m.
Tennessee at Seattle, 4:05 p.m.
Jacksonville at Denver, 4:05 p.m.
New Orleans at New England, 4:25 p.m.
Arizona at San Francisco, 4:25 p.m.
Washington at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Monday, Oct. 14
Indianapolis at San Diego, 8:40 p.m.

MLS

Wednesday’s games — All Times Eastern
Kansas City at Houston, 8:30 p.m.
Vancouver at Seattle, 10 p.m.
Colorado at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.
Saturday’s games
New England at Montreal, 2:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at D.C., 7 p.m.
Chicago at FC Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Sunday’s game — Seattle at Portland, 9 p.m.

Expert opinion

PM weighs in on violence in hockey

Stephen Harper has dropped his prime ministerial gloves and put on his hockey historian’s helmet to wade in on the subject of violence in Canada’s most popular sport.

“I do think that authorities have historically not taken their responsibility to try and keep the rough, tough part of the game within the rules,” he said from a beach-front hotel in Bali. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jerry Sandusky victims

At least 19 have settled with Penn

At least 19 young men have settled with Penn State over assertions of abuse by former assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky, according to lawyers for the claimants.

Many, if not all of them, have received checks from the university, the attorneys said over the past two days. The school has set aside some $60 million to pay claims.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Exhibition game

Philippines fans embrace Linsanity

Jeremy Lin, the NBA’s first American-born player of Taiwanese descent, stole the spotlight Tuesday as the Houston Rockets practised for the first NBA pre-season game in the basketball-obsessed Philippines.

Lin was mobbed by reporters on a Manila basketball court, a day after the Rockets and Indiana Pacers arrived in the capital for Thursday’s game.

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DRIVE

The 2013 Acura TL

Review. Acura's top sport sedan is looking great and getting old gracefully

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ALL PHOTOS BY JUSTIN PRITCHARD

The fourth-generation Acura TL launched for model-year 2009, and is due to be replaced any time by a new, fifth-generation machine. It's far from the freshest or newest model in its segment — but the current Acura TL is one of the most established.

That's thanks in no small part to its delivery of performance, technology and everyday sensibility alongside two things premium shoppers love: an honest price tag, and a promise of reliable, no-nonsense ownership thanks to Acura's gleaming reputation for reliability.

The gist? The TL is getting old these days, but it remains a staple product in its segment that's well-deserving of a test-drive. The looks might still be controversial, but the TL remains a great machine to drive, and a car special to the Acura brand. The current-generation TL put Super Handling All Wheel Drive (SH-AWD) technology into the mainstream luxury sedan market. And, though it was late to the game, it pushed Acura sedans past the 300-horsepower mark at long last.

All of this exists in a highly-usable package. There's generous room for four adults, plenty of at-hand storage, and a great looking, three-dimensional look to the instrument cluster, dashboard and controls. In all, you get unique styling that very much does its own thing while creating a distinctively upscale, techy atmosphere. Proper cupholders, deep door bins and a sense of always having a place for your stuff help round out the package. Key competitors include the BMW 5-Series, Audi A6 and Infiniti G37. Though not pack-leading where output is concerned, the big V6 is very pleasing to listen to and really piles on the juice at high revs as the VTEC power-cam kicks in. The six-speed automatic works well with the engine for smoothness and response, supporting a sporty but very refined character.

The SH-AWD system, as noted on numerous other test-drives, has benefits which are two-fold. First, on slippery stuff, it finds surprising levels of traction — using sophisticated computer controls and fast-acting magnetic clutch packs to extract the most forward momentum from the ground beneath. Second, when drivers push the TL's limits a little, the system "overdrives" the inside rear wheel, which slightly slides the tail out and points the nose inwards in a sort of mini-drift. Translation? You get playful agility and locked-on confidence, depending on what your right foot is up to on the surface in question.

That's all directed by a heavyset steering system that confidently transmits a sense of agility and playfulness to the driver, too. End of the day, few sedans are this all-out confident and discreetly entertaining when pushed hard.

Powerful and fairly communicative brakes back up the performance capabilities — and when you're on a relaxing drive, wind and road noise levels are kept adequately in check, as is fuel consumption. This engine might not have all the latest fuel-saving gadgets, but I still averaged under 10 lites per 100 km over the course of a week.

Other notes? The xenon projector lights are fantastic, and the big doors and big comfy seats make this an easy car to get in and out of, even many times per day. Finally, blind-spot monitoring and a slew of fully-automatic or voice-commanded features on the "Elite" grade test model I drove added a sense of effortless relaxation on lengthy road trips.

Numerous competitors are more modern-looking, both inside and out. A comparable Audi or Lexus will boast a more striking cabin, and a comparable BMW or Mercedes will likely prove more all-out comfortable. The new TL has yet to be seen — but for the time being, shoppers after a car that's discreetly sporty, offers a proven reputation, delivers plenty of character and delivers a pleasing overall driving experience should add the current TL to their "to test drive" list.

2013 Acura TL

- **Fuel economy.** 9.9L /100km
- **Engines (hp).** 3.7L V6, 305 horsepower, VTEC.
- **Transmissions.** Six-speed automatic
- **Base price (incl. destination)** (TL SH-AWD Elite) $49,450

Key strengths

This isn't a machine that begs for attention, but rather focuses on sensibility and a quiet, confident demeanor. And, though high-tech and sporty, the TL is easy to drive, easy to learn and requires nothing of the driver when they'd prefer to relax and enjoy a peaceful drive.

Key complaints

Simply, it's getting old. The navigation and infotainment read-outs are due for an overhaul, and so are many of the controls and interfaces on board. More power would help the TL earn the dollars of driving enthusiasts, and the lack of folding rear seats limits cargo carrying capacity.

TL's dashboard may not be as fancy as other makes, but still works well.

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Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
It's not like you to be so trusting but you are determined to see the best in people and your faith in human nature, temporary though it may be, will be rewarded today.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
You may have a pile of work to finish but shove it all to one side and worry about it at a later date. Most likely that "later" will never arrive and you'll be glad you did not waste time on trivia.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Wherever you go over the next 24 hours, people will greet you with open arms. Why are you suddenly so popular? Because of your sunny nature, of course, and because you are rarely judgmental.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
You are getting obsessive about something and it's not healthy. It's unlikely you will just give up on it, so maybe you should indulge it — and get it out of your system.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
You don't have to carry the world on your shoulders. Friends and colleagues will make life easier for you today, but they will only succeed if you meet them halfway.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You could easily spend lots of money and have nothing to show for it, so maybe you should leave your credit cards at home.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
People you meet today may not be very talkative but you will know exactly what they are thinking. If there is one thing you are good at, it is reading body language.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Scorpio is a sensitive sign and that sensitivity can be both a blessing and a curse. Which one it is today depends on how easily you let yourself be annoyed by petty events.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You'll need to employ a certain amount of critical thinking over the next 24 hours, especially when dealing with new ideas, as some people may find them a bit outrageous.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You're in a friendly mood and that's good because the more you smile and say nice things the more you'll get the kind of offers you like. What kind are they? The kind that pay lots of money!

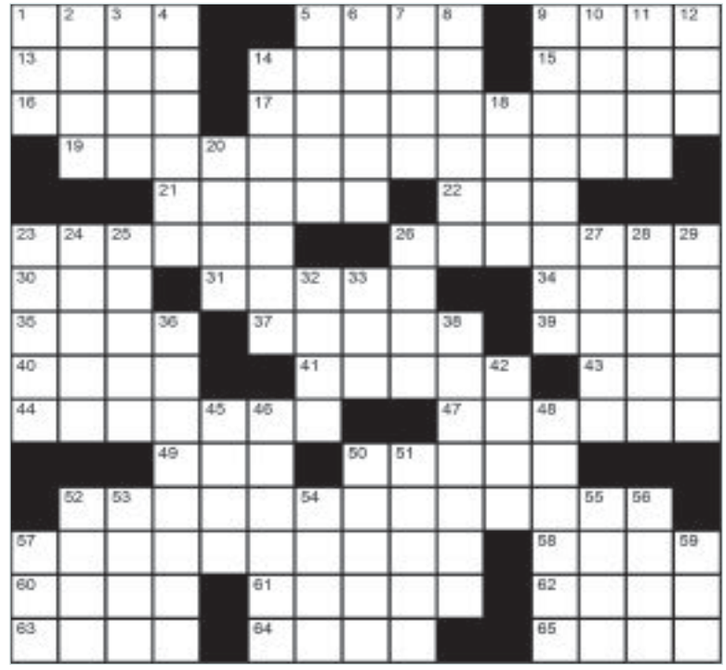
♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You will be impatient with people who get in your way today but hopefully not so impatient that you start a fight. Slow down, calm down and try not to take little things personally — they're not.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
If you are confused about something then you must speak up, even though you don't like to admit to your ignorance in front of other people. The important thing is to get it right. SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

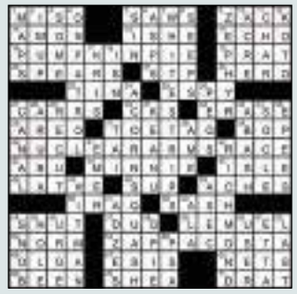
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Gordon Pinsent's actress daughter
5. French words?
9. Konvicted rapper
13. Inventor, Thomas __ Edison
14. Flashdance (1983) star Michael
15. Ms. Downey of Touched by an Angel
16. Gladiator's 554
17. Bit of Ramble On by Led Zeppelin: "The __ __ lights my way."
19. Canadian actress who played Lily Munster: 3 wds.
21. Nova Scotia's Straight of __
22. Provincial song: __ to Newfoundland
23. Ornamental tree
26. Hip-Hop group, __ Boys
30. Ohh's kin
31. Moderner
34. Salon shade
35. Rattling sound from the chest
37. Shave the sheep
39. Comic actor Mr. Green
40. _.__ (British band)
41. Sarah McLachlan song
43. Mr. Gershwin
44. Caustic talk
47. Filet __
49. "Let me think..."
50. John Hersey's bell town
52. Madonna's pre-concerts rituals: 2 wds.
57. Fluently-bilingual-person job title
58. Minstrel's instrument
60. __ Kong
61. Comedian/actor Denis
62. Russian river
63. Border
64. Leaky balloon sounds
65. Tommy James & The Shondells tune, when repeated

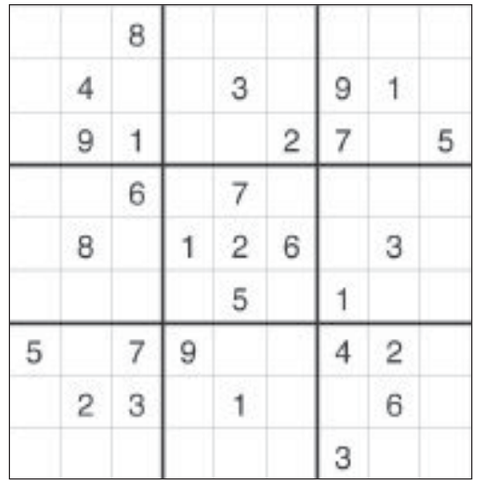
Down
1. Chap
2. Jed Clampett's daughter, __ May
3. Tel __
4. Mayhems
5. Pouting grimaces
6. Perform better than
7. Genuine
8. Big lake in Ontario
9. Captain's chair parts
10. __-Aid (Fun drink)
11. Herman Melville story
12. Book publisher, __ A. Talese
14. Jobs like filmdom's Miss McPhee's
18. Zippo
20. Flatbread variety
23. The Simpsons kid, and namesakes
24. Catherine of SCTV
25. Winnipeg Jet, e.g.
26. Talk big
27. Marketing link: 2 wds.
28. Short start?
29. Mr. Hawke
32. Brit pop duo!
33. Literary contraction
36. Toronto Stock __
38. Take the plunge again
42. The Mod Squad character, __ Hayes
45. Songstress Ms. Grant's
46. Uses one's nose
48. J.R.R. Tolkien character in the song at #17-Across
50. __ __ a go between (Mediate)
51. Gowns by designer Christian
52. Nudge
53. Called
54. Charlotte of TV, and others
55. Certain monetary unit
56. Saxophonist Mr. Getz
57. British band, when doubled
59. Cathedral city

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.



Yesterday's Sudoku

2	7	8	5	9	3	1	4	6
9	1	4	8	6	2	5	3	7
5	6	3	4	7	1	9	2	8
8	3	9	6	1	7	4	5	2
7	4	6	9	2	5	3	8	1
1	2	5	3	8	4	7	6	9
4	9	2	1	3	6	8	7	5
3	8	7	2	5	9	6	1	4
6	5	1	7	4	8	2	9	3

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